



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



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ISSN: 2222-6990

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To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v8-i12/192>

DOI: 10.6007/IJARBSS/v8-i12/5192

Received: 26 Oct 2018, **Revised:** 15 Dec 2018, **Accepted:** 26 Dec 2018

Published Online: 30 Dec 2018

In-Text Citation: (Ubaidillah, Saib, Ab-Rahim, & Ismail, 2018)

To Cite this Article: Ubaidillah, N. Z., Saib, R., Ab-Rahim, R., & Ismail, F. (2018). Tagang System Development: The Impacts and Perception of Local Communities in Terbat Mawang Village, Sarawak, Malaysia. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 8(12), 1203–1222.

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Vol. 8, No. 12, 2018, Pg. 1203 - 1222

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Abstract

Growing in popularity of tourism industry in Sarawak creates opportunities for economic development. This industry has been recognized as one of the sectors that contribute to the economic growth in the state. The number of tourists willing to visit the unexplored nature and different cultures has sparked and increased the development for the ecotourism industry. This study focuses on the impacts and perception of local communities on Tagang system development in Terbat Mawang Village, Sarawak. The respondents' feedback was analysed using factor analysis and reliability test. The study showed that three subscales components were identified including economic impact, conservation and protection, and ecotourism benefits in the analysis. In short, the socioeconomic and environmental implications captured an excellent opportunity for economic development in the ecotourism industry.

Keyword: Tagang System, Local Community Perception, Socioeconomic And Environmental Impact, Ecotourism And Sustainable Development.

Introduction

Ecotourism in the fields of tourism, conservation and rural development has become a buzzword nowadays. It is said that the objectives of conservation and development is achieved with the opening of the political and economic resources necessary to tourism as noted by Lindberg, Enriquez, & Sproule (1996). National Ecotourism plan defined ecotourism as "environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features, both past and present), that promotes conservation, has a low

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